

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)
at Cambridge Professional Development Centre on
Tuesday 20 June 2017, 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

Present: Aga Cahn, Amanda Fitton (SACRE Adviser), Cathy Michell, Cllr Claire Richards, Reverend Debbie Noonan, Janet Scott, Julia Ewans, Kerri McCourty (Clerk), Raj Shah, Shahla Suleiman, Dr Shirley Hall, Tony Reynolds and Virginia Barnes

Apologies: Becky Ford, Becky Smith, Cllr Julie Wisson, Daniel Bennett, Dennis Johnson, Ged McHale, Jag Srαι, Moira Middleton and Raymond Mitchell

Absent: Elizabeth Bassett

1. Welcome and Introductions

This meeting was quorate.

Julia Ewans (Vice Chair) chaired the meeting due to the retirement of Cllr Tony Orgee.

Julia opened the meeting with a minute silence for reflection on the tragedies that had struck the UK in recent time. Julia then asked the committee to introduce themselves to visitor Taradasa Dharmachari and new member Cllr Claire Richards.

2. Apologies

The SACRE Clerk informed those present that apologies had been received from Becky Ford, Becky Smith, Cllr Julie Wisson, Daniel Bennett, Dennis Johnson, Ged McHale, Jag Srαι, Moira Middleton and Raymond Mitchell.

All apologies were read out and accepted by the committee.

3. Minutes of 2 February 2017 and matters arising not elsewhere on agenda

SACRE members checked the minutes of the last meeting for accuracy.

The minutes were subsequently signed by Julia Ewans (Vice Chair).

In regard to matters arising, one item was brought to the committee's attention:

Composition of religions in the three counties:

Janet Scott brought it to the committee's attention that the composition of religions figures for the three counties had not yet been distributed to SACRE members.

Action: Julia Ewans to send the figures to committee.

JE

4. Correspondence

The SACRE Clerk informed the committee that there had been some correspondence since the last meeting:

Resignations

The SACRE Clerk informed members that she had received resignations from Cllr Tony Orgee, Cllr Ed Cearns, Cllr Paul Sales and Reverend Debbie Noonan

Action: Clerk to send 'Thank you' letters on behalf of SACRE.

KM

5. Membership presentation

Taradasa Dharmachari would like to join the Cambridgeshire SACRE committee as the Buddhist representative for committee A.

5.1 Tarasdasas Dharmachari

Taradasa introduced himself to the committee. He co-ordinates and participates school visits at the Cambridge Buddhist Centre. The committee were happy to welcome Taradasa to committee A.

Action: KM to send 'Welcome' pack to Taradasa

KM

6. Agreed Syllabus update

In December 2016, members from Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Northamptonshire SACRE convened as the Agreed Syllabus Conference. It is a joint Agreed Syllabus Conference that has developed innovative ways of working to reduce cost and increase efficiency.

Amanda wanted to make it public record of her thanks to Janet Scott and Julia Ewans for their extremely hard work on the Agreed Syllabus review which has freed up time for Amanda.

6.1 Minutes from the ASC meeting on 27th February, 2nd May and 7th June 2017.

The minutes from the first ASC meetings were included in the members' meeting packs and circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

6.2 ASC report from the Chair

Julia Ewans (Chair of the ASC) has highlighted the simplistic nature of the revised Agreed Syllabus. The ASC has been looking at other SACRE syllabus so as not to reinvent the wheel.

Several primary schools have already agreed to trial the syllabus in September so the ASC need to agree on a framework at the next ASC meeting which is on the 6th July 2017.

The underlying units of study, support and progression is what teachers want from a syllabus. Areas of best practice are vital. Therefore we are relying on teachers and faith leaders for in-depth knowledge on the religions taught and members of SACRE must have their input.

Janet Scott very kindly drafted a progression document for Christianity which has set the standards for other religions to create their own progression documents. Aga Cahn created a similar document for Judaism and Shahla Suleiman created one for Islam. Shahla wondered whether the progression documents should include objectives and outcomes. The underlying units of study will then help teachers with knowledge of the religions.

The syllabus is a large bit of work and it relies on individuals to put in the time with their knowledge of their religions. The new agreed syllabus will be an exemplar. Due to in continuity in RE subject leaders, knowledge of the curriculum is getting lost in schools. The progression is intended as guidance as to what material is appropriate for each key stage.

Amanda met with several teachers to draft end of year and end of key stage statements for assessment. It is a simplified version which is generic in its teaching criteria for AT1 and AT2. It will be an electronic word document so that teachers can lift the statements to match their school's assessment and reporting method. Amanda asked if the SACRE committee were happy with the document to send out to schools now for assessment. The SACRE committee were happy with the document.

Action: Amanda Fitton to send assessment document to all schools.

AF

6.3 Meeting Dates

The next ASC meeting is taking place on Thursday 6th July 2017 at Northampton School for Boys from 17:00.

7. Conference to launch the Agreed Syllabus

Amanda Fitton and Kerri McCourty met to plan the Agreed Syllabus conference launch. It is proposed that a conference is held for RE teachers to help introduce them to the revised Agreed Syllabus. The conference will have a keynote speaker as well as workshops to support teachers with the implementation of the new syllabus as well as promoting their own CPD.

The proposed date is Wednesday 25th April 2018 at the Marriott Hotel in Huntingdon.

Action: KM to book Marriott Hotel for Agreed Syllabus conference

KM

Amanda asked the committee for any ideas on keynote speakers.

8. Working parties

Visitors document

Following on from the last SACRE meeting, Kerri McCourty sent a pro forma of the visiting establishments and speakers document for schools to SACRE members but only two members responded.

Action: Kerri McCourty to re-send visitors and speakers template to SACRE members.

KM

Action: SACRE members to fill in pro forma and return back to Clerk.

ALL

9. Training Update

On Wednesday 14th June, Amanda held a Leading RE at Primary School course which saw 20 people attend. The course had very good feedback and will be one that Amanda runs in the future.

Amanda and Kerri met to plan and organise the RE training for 2017-2018. Amanda is running an Exploring Islam course on 28th September 2017 with Iman Ibn Tahaikt from Cambridgeshire Race Equality and Diversity Service (CREDS).

Amanda and Shirley Hall confirmed that the network meetings will continue for next year.

Julia Ewans asked about whether it is SACREs role to provide guidance on how to address terrorism with children. Amanda suggested that SACRE put together a leaflet on guidance for addressing these issues.

10. Faith Direct Event 2017

Since the last SACRE meeting, Kerri McCourty has met with Dennis and Aga to plan the Faith Direct event for 2017. It has been decided that the event will be open to all three counties (Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Northamptonshire). All three counties will pay equal costs irrespective of how many schools from each area attend.

The date has been set for Thursday 9th November 2017, 11:00-14:00 at Marriott Hotel in Huntingdon.

Schools from all three areas have been invited and currently five schools have confirmed attendance:

- Southfield School, Northamptonshire
- St Peter's School, Cambridgeshire
- Lodge Park Academy, Northamptonshire
- St Bede's Inter-Church School, Cambridgeshire

- Northamptonshire School for Boys, Northamptonshire

11. NASACRE Conference

On Tuesday 16th May, Amanda and Kerri travelled to York to attend the NASACRE Conference and AGM.

The theme for the conference was Preparing for life in Britain today: the contribution of RE. The main speakers were Dr Joyce Miller, who spoke about the work of the commission of the RE Council. Religious literacy was a key aspect of her talk. The second speaker was Professor Aaqil Ahmed, head of Religion and Ethics for both the BBC and Channel 4. Professor Ahmed also spoke about the importance of religious literacy.

12. Annual Report 2015-2016

Since the last SACRE meeting, Amanda Fitton and Kerri McCourty drafted the Annual Report 2015-2016. The draft was circulated to members for comment.

The SACRE committee were happy to adopt the annual report.

Action: KM to send annual report to NASACRE and DfE.

KM

13. Dates for 2017-2018

Due to budget restrictions because of events such as the Faith Direct event, Keith Grimwade (Director for Learning) has advised that less money needs to be spent on SACRE meetings.

As a result, the SACRE meetings for next year will be held in the Kreis Viersen room at Shire Hall in Cambridge. The meetings will be from 13:30-15:30 and will no longer include lunch. The SACRE clerk has pre-booked the meeting dates for next year and has booked ten car parking spaces for SACRE members.

The meeting dates are as follows:

- Wednesday 4th October 2017, 13:30-15:30
- Wednesday 7th February 2018, 13:30-15:30
- Wednesday 13th June 2018, 13:30-15:30

Action: KM to send meeting dates to all SACRE members.

KM

14. AOB

Raj Shah wanted to ask if meditation can be included in the Agreed Syllabus. Amanda said that it can be included.

Next Meeting

Formal Meeting

The next meeting will take place Wednesday 4th October 2017, 13:30-15:30 at in the Kreis Viersen room at Shire Hall.

Working Party Meeting

The next ASC meeting will take place on Thursday 6th July 2017, 17:00-19:00 at Northamptonshire School for Boys.

The meeting closed at 15:00

Signed: Date: